

Tests for Clothing Material

By the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

When buying staple clothing materials, if you are not a good judge of quality, it is an excellent idea to look at several pieces of the same type of material but with different prices and compare the weight, color, and firmness of weave. Such a comparison will often emphasize the fact that the most expensive piece is not necessarily the best quality. It may be the season's most fashionable color and weight, and its high price probably is due to slight variations in the finishing and the fleeting popularity of the style.

There has been a tendency to abuse the practice of asking for samples from dress goods departments, but at times a sample is quite justifiable, as it will give the opportunity for home tests. Cotton and linen are affected by acids and very slightly affected by alkalis, while the reverse is true of wool.



TESTING SILK BY BURNING.

Silk on right, heavily loaded with mineral matter, keeps its shape after burning, while the ash of pure silk, on left, crumbles.

The alkalies found in the home are washing sodas and the washing powders. The office of home economics of the United States department of agriculture suggests using the following simple test to determine the amount of cotton in a mixed fabric:

Add four tablespoonfuls of washing soda, or five tablespoonfuls of washing powder, to a pint of soft water. The washing soda should be rolled to a powder before measuring. Bring to boiling and add sample, which should be about one and one-half inches square. Boil carefully, to avoid spluttering, for 20 minutes, adding water at intervals to replace that lost by evaporation. Transfer sample to cold water and rub between the fingers. The wool, which is gelatinized by the boiling, will disappear on rubbing and the cotton threads will be left unchanged.

Weights of Vegetables

Housewives Warned of Short Measures.

That housewives may be protected against short weight practices of wagon peddlers, Chicago's city sealer has issued a table of weights of vegetables to the peck and bushel.

Warmer weather is coming on and with that the wagon vendors of the vegetable needs of the family are becoming more numerous on the streets and alleys. The sealer warns against purchase by measure, which is prohibited by ordinance, and advises that every housewife insist that the commodities be weighed.

He advises that the following list be cut out and kept in a handy place:

Number of pounds to the peck.	
Apples.....12½	Peaches.....12
Beans, green and string.....6	Peanuts, green, 5½
Beans, wax.....6	Peanuts, roasted.....6
Beans, castor.....11½	Pears.....14½
Beans, white.....15	Peas, dried.....15
Beets.....15	Peas, green, in pod.....8
Carrots.....12½	Potatoes, Irish.....15
Cranberries.....8½	Potatoes, sweet.....12½
Cucumbers.....12	Quinces.....12
Gooseberries.....10	Rutabagas.....12½
Hickory nuts.....12½	Spinach.....3
Onions.....14½	Tomatoes.....14
Parasol.....12½	Turnips.....12½

The bushel weights are, of course, just four times the figures given above.

What Produces Odor.

No substance that refuses to dissolve in water has an odor. It is the actual substance itself, floating in particles in the air, as in the case of light and sound. The damper a thing the more powerful the odor it gives off. A pleasant proof of the fact can be had by walking in a garden after rain. It is the vapor of a liquid that smells and not the liquid in the mass itself.

HERE AND THERE

A true actor never overacts his part.

A bulldog barks first and bites afterward.

An egotist is a man who enjoys talking to himself.

Analogy is merely a method of convincing without proof.

A man's shoes may get tight by limbing water, but he doesn't.

The successful blacksmith can either shoe a horse or make a horse shoe.

Unnecessary to Slit Crows' Tongues to Enable Them to Learn to Talk—It Is Cruel

The organ of the Agassiz society contains a discussion by prominent bird authorities concerning the old idea of slitting a crow's tongue to make the bird talk. The following is abstracted:

"It is a common practice in the West to catch the young birds in early June and place them in a cage, where they become very tame and usually talk as well as a parrot. Many people keeping these birds have believed it necessary to slit their tongues before they could learn to talk. This is wholly unnecessary and cruel and should be prevented by law.

"The discussion of slitting crows' tongues is relegated to the medieval limbo of belief of the ill luck of peacock feathers; of dragon flies sewing up one's ears; of whisky for snake bite; of man-eating sharks; of rabbits' feet and the number 13; of going under ladders, spilling salt and breaking mirrors."

NEIGHBORS

As often as we thought of her, We thought of a gray life That made a quaint economist Of a wolf-haunted wife: We made the best of what she bore That was not ours to bear, And honored her for wearing things That were not things to wear.

There was a distance in her look That made us look again: And if she smiled, we might believe That we had looked in vain. Barely she came inside our doors, And had not long to stay; And when she left, it seemed somehow That she was far away.

And once, when we had all forgot That all is here to change, A shadow on the commonplace Was for a moment strange. Yet there was nothing for surprise, Nor much that need be told: Love, with its gift of pain, had given More than one heart could hold, —Edwin Arlington Robinson, in Yale Review.

Medicine Label Important.

Medicine should always be poured out from the side of the bottle opposite to the label bearing the directions. The directions are important or they would not be there, and if they are blurred or obliterated entirely a mistake is liable to occur. We may think we will remember exactly what that label said, but if the bottle has been set away a week or a month it may be difficult to remember whether the dose was half a teaspoonful or two teaspoonfuls.

Governors' Terms of Office From One to Four Years and Salaries \$2,500 to \$12,000

The governor's term of office varies in different states from one to four years. Massachusetts is the only state that has a one-year term. The following states have two years: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin. The following states have four years: Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

The salaries of the governors range from \$2,500 to \$12,000 a year. The governor of Nebraska receives \$2,500 a year. The governors of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Carolina and South Dakota receive \$3,000 a year. The governors of Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Nevada, Tennessee and Texas receive \$4,000 a year. The governor of Maryland receives \$4,500 a year. The governors of Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin receive \$5,000 a year. The governor of North Carolina receives \$6,000 a year. The governors of Massachusetts and Indiana receive \$8,000 a year. The governors of California, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania receive \$10,000 a year. The governor of Illinois receives \$12,000 a year.

Writer Observes That Some Cities Have Special Colors—Lends to Individuality

"Have you ever noticed how cities sometimes seem to have their own special colors?" asks Julian Street in "American Adventures."

"Paris is white and green—even more so, I think, than Washington," Mr. Street continues. "Chicago is gray; so is London usually, though I have seen it buff at the beginning of a heavy fog. New York used to be a brown sandstone city, but is now turning to one of cream-colored brick and tile; Naples is brilliant with pink and blue and green and white and yellow; while as for Baltimore, her old houses and her new are, as Bader puts it, of 'cheerful red brick'—not always, of course, but often enough to establish the color of red brick as the city's predominating hue. And with the red brick house—particularly the older ones—go clean white marble steps, on the bottom one of which, at the side, may usually be found an old-fashioned iron 'scraper,' doubtless left over from the time (not very long ago) when the city pavements had not reached their present excellence."

Mother's Cook Book

Seasonable Dishes.

The common vegetables become uncommon and unusual when served in a new way or with a new garnish.

Mashed Potatoes.

Press hot boiled potatoes through a ricer, and for each quart add a teaspoonful of salt and four tablespoonfuls of butter. Add hot milk and cream to make of the right consistency and pile into a baking dish. Brush over with a white sauce and sprinkle with buttered bread crumbs. Set into a hot oven and bake until brown.

Beet Relish.

This is a very good relish which may be made in small quantities, or canned and kept all winter. To one quart of cooked chopped beets add one quart of chopped cabbage, two cupfuls of sugar, one tablespoonful of salt, a teaspoonful of pepper, a half teaspoonful of cayenne, and one cupful of freshly grated horseradish; add vinegar to make it of the right consistency. This is canned cold.

Hot Slaw.

Shred cabbage very fine and drop into boiling water, cooking five minutes; drain and season with a tablespoonful of chopped onion, a little hot vinegar, butter, salt and pepper. Let stand an hour in the warming oven, then serve.

Hot Potato Salad.

Boil a half-dozen potatoes and slice while hot; fry thin slices of bacon (half a cupful), cut in bits until brown. Pour off all but two tablespoonfuls of fat and into this stir one tablespoonful of flour; mix one-quarter of a teaspoonful of mustard with a quarter of a teaspoonful of salt and a few dashes of cayenne; stir and mix until well blended then add a half-cupful of mild vinegar; let the dressing boil; add the bacon bits, a small shredded onion and the potatoes. Serve very hot.

Puffed Crackers.

Split milk crackers and dip them in ice water; put into a hot oven with a bit of butter on top of each and when they are well puffed, drop a spoonful of jelly on each and serve at once.

Nellie Maxwell

SPRING, HARVEST SEASON OF THE SHEEP RAISER, DEMANDS ATTENTION TO ANIMALS



Member of a Boys' Sheep Club With His Thriving Flock.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Many new flocks of sheep were established in the farming states last year, and this spring their owners will for the first time experience the lambing and shearing seasons. Spring, which is the lambing and shearing season, is the harvest period of the sheep raiser, say specialists of the United States department of agriculture, and the size and quality of these crops determine the profits. At this time extra attention should be given to the ewes and lambs. In no other way can time be used to better advantage on the farm.

If the ewes have not been properly fed and cared for during the fall and winter, the crops of lambs and wool can be neither large nor of high quality. It is the weak, thin ewes that require most attention in the lambing season, though previous mistakes cannot be remedied at that time. On the other hand, failure to be constantly nearby while the lambs are arriving may mean the raising of only an 80 or 90 per cent crop of lambs where a 125 per cent increase—considering that many ewes will have twins—can readily be realized from good shepherding of flocks of mutton quality.

Advantages of Early Lambing.

In many sections it is most profitable to have lambs arrive in March or even earlier. One important advantage of this plan is that other work is then less urgent and full attention can be given to the ewes and the new arrivals. Another advantage gained by early lambing is that the lambs can be made sufficiently heavy and fat to market in June or July. Early marketing usually means higher prices, and it is especially desirable because the lambs are disposed of before the time of greater danger of injury by internal parasites. The ewe lambs are stronger than those which arrived later in the season and are, therefore, kept for the breeding flock. They are less suscep-

tible to injury caused by parasites, which is most serious in warm, damp periods of July or August.

Care of Weak Lambs.

The lamb that is born strong and vigorous, with a good dam, will need little care. Prompt attention given to the weak lamb immediately upon its arrival will frequently result in saving its life. In cold weather lambs should be wrapped in hot flannel cloths to prevent chilling, which may result in their death, and the cloths should be renewed as often as is necessary to keep the young animals warm. Milk should be given freely and the lamb returned to the ewe as soon as it is strong enough. Sometimes it may be necessary to feed the lamb with an infant's nursing bottle, giving a few teaspoonfuls of milk every hour for a few hours until it is strong enough to nurse without assistance.

If lambs are to be sold at three to five months of age they may run with their dams until that time. The lambs kept for breeding purposes should be weaned at the same time and put on fresh pastures where there is no danger of stomach worms. Where the weaning is done at this time the ewes can be put in better condition for the fall breeding. When lambs are to be kept on the farm, the best method of weaning is to leave them on the old pasture for three or four days, removing the ewes to a scanty pasture to check their milk flow. As soon as the lambs cease fretting for their dams they may be removed to fresh pastures. Ewes with large udders should be partially milked once every three days until they go dry.

Details on the care of the flock during the lambing season are given in Farmers' Bulletin 840, "Farm Sheep Raising for Beginners," copies of which can be had, so long as the supply lasts, by applying to the United States department of agriculture, Washington.

EXCELLENT PLAN TO HARVEST WOOL CROP

Avoid Chilling Ewes by Shearing on a Warm Day.

Hand-Power Machines Are Most Economical for Flocks of Less Than Fifty Head—Paper Twine Is Most Satisfactory.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Sheep shearing is usually done in late spring after the lambing season. The work should be performed on a warm day, so that the ewes may not become chilled. For flocks of less than fifty head, hand-power machines are the most economical. These machines are more rapid, produce smoother work, injure the sheep less, are more easily handled, and result in a larger crop than where hand shears are used.

After the fleece has been removed all tags and dirt should be cleaned out of it and it should be rolled up, not too tightly, the skin side out, and tied with paper twine. The value of the wool crop is often impaired by the use of binder twine in tying up fleeces. Anything is superior to binder twine, and paper twine is most satisfactory. Boxes for tying fleeces are not necessary; in fact wool shows better if not tied too tightly.

Farmers in New York and other states have profited largely by co-operative marketing of their wool. Under the direction of the county agent the clips are assembled, graded, and sold in large quantities at the prices prevailing at the principal markets. In the past these prices were materially higher than the "general" local prices obtained.

HOG "AUCTION" SALES BEST

Praises of New Method Sung These Days by California Marketing Association.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The praises of the hog auction are sung these days by the California Farm Bureau Marketing association, which comprises the marketing department of the farm bureaus in King, Tulare and Kern counties. The prices are said to be much better than when hogs are sold by the old method. The auction sales have also taught the farmers the importance of raising better hogs, as they have seen that packers give grain-fattened hogs the preference over those fattened on skimmed milk and alfalfa pasture alone.

FARM STOCK

SHEPHERD'S DON'T'S

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

1. Don't keep sheep on wet land.
2. Don't feed moldy or spoiled hay, roots, silage or grain.
3. Don't forget to keep salt and fresh water before the sheep.
4. Don't neglect the sheep in winter. Keep them in good condition.
5. Don't forget to tag the ewes before breeding and lambing time.
6. Don't forget exercising the bred ewe.
7. Don't let the lamb go too long without suckling.
8. Don't neglect to feed the lamb grain as soon as it starts eating.
9. Don't let parasites kill your lamb.



Interest Young People in Sheep Raising.

For lack of some fresh green pasture. 10. Don't shear your ewes until warm weather comes.

11. Don't tie your fleeces with anything but wool or paper twine.

12. Don't hesitate to ask any questions of the county agent, or write to the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C.

FINISH ANIMALS FOR MARKET

Horses, Cattle and Some Classes of Sheep Can Be Fed Quantities of Roughage.

Animals being fattened for market and animals during the first year of their growth should not be expected to consume large quantities of cheap roughage, but horses, cattle and some classes of sheep that are being carried through the winter can be fed rations carrying appreciable quantities of cheaper roughage, provided they are properly supplemented with nitrogenous feeds of the right sort, such as leguminous hays or linseed or cottonseed meal.

PROPER WAY TO FEED SHEEP

During Stormy Weather Feed Them in Shed in Long Manger Constructed for That Purpose.

Never feed straw and hay to the sheep by throwing it down in heaps on the ground, but have a long rack for the purpose; and when it is stormy do not allow them to stay out, but feed them inside the shed in a long manger made for the purpose.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

A tablespoonful of blood meal mixed with a little milk is very good for a calf that has diarrhea or other digestive disturbance. It is highly nutritious for a weak calf, too.

The keeping in repair of wire fences is necessary on the stock farm and so the wire stretcher is a handy tool, both in repairing and building new fences.

When oats cost no more than half as much as corn the swine division of the University of Illinois recommends they can be fed profitably to hogs.

Hogs are very sensitive to wind and cold at night and will suffer just as much as a cow or horse in cold open houses.

The best results from feeding skim milk to pigs are obtained when about three pounds of it are fed for each pound of grain.

Silage-fed cattle shed their coats better in the spring and gain quicker and faster than those fed dry roughage.

Clover is an ideal forage for pigs, particularly the young growth coming on after the wheat is harvested.

Ensilage is good stuff to have, but it is not an all-around feed. Some hay and a bit of grain should go with it.

Calves will nibble at hay when they are not more than a week old.

Cleanliness is quite essential for the calf indoors.

Plenty of bedding is needed for the calf.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Have a warm place ready for the cold-weather pigs.

Beet tops can be fed with the least expense direct from the field.

Buttermilk is a splendid feed for both pregnant and suckling sows.

There is no grain equal to corn in putting the finish on fattening animals.

The tougher and drier the roughage the more and the more costly the concentrates needed.

If you wish your pigs to grow as rapidly as possible, use a liberal feed of corn and skim milk.

Size in live stock is secondary to quick growth and ease with which finishing may be put on.

Feed silage to calves as soon as they will eat it, picking out for them the leafy portions at first.

It can be stated in a general way that too much protein in a ration is not good for the health of any animal.

Pure-bred stock long ago ceased to be merely a fad. The quality of farm animals is an all-important factor in success.

Corn and all the tankage the hogs would eat makes a good self-fed ration for hogs that are being grown for market purposes.

Silage and alfalfa or clover hay make a balanced ration and wonderful results have been obtained from these two feeds alone.